



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Washington Veterans Home • 1141 Beach Drive E • Port Orchard, Washington 98366 • (360) 895-4700

March 24, 2020

Dear Washington Veterans Home Family or Representative,

We are sending this letter in our continuing effort to keep you informed of how our Homes are modifying services during the COVID-19 crisis.

As of today, we have no cases of COVID-19 in any of our Veterans Homes. Our priority remains keeping our residents, our staff, and you safe and healthy. The changes we've had to make to do this have been hard on everyone, especially our residents and you their family and friends.

Testing Update as of March 24 at 8:40am:
RESIDENTS

Residents with a positive COVID-19 test:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 0
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 0
- Spokane Veterans Home: 0
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 0

Residents with a negative COVID-19 test:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 4
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 1
- Spokane Veterans Home: 3
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 0

Total number of residents tested:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 5
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 1
- Spokane Veterans Home: 6
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 1

STAFF

Staff with a positive COVID-19 test:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 0
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 0
- Spokane Veterans Home: 0
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 0

Staff with a negative COVID-19 test:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 2
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 0
- Spokane Veterans Home: 1
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 0

Total number of staff tested:

- WA Veterans Home in Port Orchard: 5
- WA Soldiers Home in Orting: 3
- Spokane Veterans Home: 2
- Walla Walla Veterans Home: 1

This information is updated frequently on our website at www.dva.wa.gov/covid.

Also included with this letter is a list of frequently asked questions regarding visitors, COVID-19 testing, and other topics.

Staff in our homes are doing the very best they can to keep residents active and engaged by offering new in-room or appropriately socially-distanced activities in the Homes. They are also working hard to schedule and assist with virtual visits using technology. We ask for your patience as we continue to learn some of this new technology along with you and our residents! We might not get it right the first few times, but over time, we will all get better at this!

Here are some of the things our Activities and Social Work staff are doing to work with residents and provide emotional support:

- Modified the popular exercise group – Core Building – to offer it 3 times a day on Friday's. Those who want to participate have an assigned class times so they have plenty of social distance between each other.
- A weekend room to room gourmet coffee and hot chocolate service.
- Spring activity packet including a short story writing prompt and contest, word search, maze and crossword puzzle. (2 levels of difficulty offered, very difficult and easy)
- A Sunday spiritual packet including Books of the Old Testament word search, Easter Trivia, the Lord's Prayer and a Walk by Faith coloring sheet.
- Once a week, room to room fresh baked cookies using a toaster oven.
- Room to room Nail care day.
- In the Memory Care Unit, our focus is on hand washing, which assists with good hygiene and provides 1 on 1 social interactions.
- Streaming different live cameras in the activity rooms. Examples are the Monterey Bay Aquarium Penguins, and a Panda-cam. The channels offer relaxing out-of-room activities, but don't draw large crowds like a movie or entertainment group would.
- We have opened our DVD video lending cabinets so residents can access the 100's of DVDs we have without a staff member needing to open the case.
- Other creative activities include room bingo and individual arts and craft kits

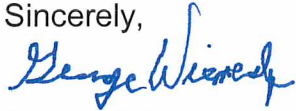
While you've probably seen some very heartwarming stories about residents 'visiting' through the windows with their family members, now that we are under a Stay Home, Stay Healthy order from Governor Inslee, we ask that you please follow this order. We will only prevent the spread of COVID-19 if we all do our part to limit the opportunity for the virus to spread, which includes staying home unless travel is essential.

I want to thank you for your cooperation and understanding through all of the changes that are taking place. Our staff are working hard to keep your loved one safe and I can't tell you how much we appreciate their work. We will continue to update the WDVA

Website with messages like this as well as updates on COVID-19 tests performed and their outcomes. www.dva.wa.gov/covid.

We will continue to provide regular updates here and on our website at: www.dva.wa.gov/covid. If you have questions, please contact us at 360-895-4700 or email George.Wiwerslage@DVA.WA.GOV or JillID@DVA.WA.GOV with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "George Wiwerslage".

George Wiwerslage, Administrator
Washington Veterans Home
Department of Veterans Affairs